

## 65 – INDEPENDENT AGENCIES – REGULATORY

### 407 – PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### CHAPTER 314 – STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN

**SUMMARY** - This Chapter establishes the standard design, administration and funding criteria for a Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan to assist qualified low-income customers pay their electric bills. This Chapter mandates the creation of Low-Income Assistance Programs (LIAP) for transmission and distribution utilities that do not currently have them and the continuation of existing low-income programs. This Chapter creates a central fund to finance the statewide plan and apportions the fund to transmission and distribution utilities based on the percentage of LIHEAP eligible persons residing in their respective service territories. The Maine State Housing Authority, in cooperation with regional Community Action Agencies, will administer the statewide plan and the individual LIAPs.

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## §1 GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

### A. Scope of Rule

This Chapter applies to all transmission and distribution utilities in the State except those transmission and distribution utilities exempt from electric restructuring pursuant to Title 35-A M.R.S.A. §3202(6).

### B. Definitions

#### 1. Apportionment

"Apportionment" is the amount of money that a transmission and distribution utility shall spend annually on its LIAP. Each utility's apportionment is listed in Appendix A to this Chapter.

#### 2. Apportionment Rate

"Apportionment rate" is the percentage of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan fund to which a transmission and distribution utility is entitled. The apportionment rates are stated in Appendix A under the heading "% of LIHEAP Customers" to this Chapter.

#### 3. Assessment

"Assessment" is the amount of revenue that each transmission and distribution utility must contribute annually to the cost of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan. Each utility's assessment is listed in Appendix A to this Chapter.

#### 4. Community Action Agency

"Community Action Agency" is a private nonprofit agency that has previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from the Federal Community Services Administration under the Federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and is the agency that is authorized by the Maine State Housing Authority to deliver the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

#### 5. Commission

"Commission" is the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

#### 6. CAD

"CAD" is an acronym that stands for the "Consumer Assistance Division" of the Commission.

7. Eligible Customer

"Eligible customer" is any residential customer who meets the following criteria:

- a) The customer is taking residential service on a continuing year-round basis;
- b) The customer has applied, and meets the income guidelines, for assistance from LIHEAP; and
- c) The customer does not receive a housing subsidy that limits the household's total housing cost, including utilities, to a fixed percentage of the household's income.

8. Existing Low-Income Program

An "Existing Low-Income Program" is a LIAP that was in operation prior to the effective date of this rule. These programs are Central Maine Power's "Electric Lifeline Program," Bangor-Hydro-Electric's "Low-Income Discount Rate Program," and Maine Public Service's "PowerPact Program."

9. LIAP

"LIAP" is an acronym that stands for "Low-Income Assistance Program," which is a program to assist qualified low-income customers pay their electric bills. Collectively, the LIAPs constitute the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan. An existing Low-Income Assistance Program is a LIAP.

10. LIHEAP

"LIHEAP" is an acronym that stands for "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program," which is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance grants to needy households for home energy bills and is implemented by the Maine State Housing Authority.

11. MSHA

"MSHA" is an acronym that stands for the Maine State Housing Authority.

12. Participating Customer

A "participating customer" is a customer who is enrolled in a LIAP. Participating customers are a subset of eligible customers.

13. LIAP Program Year

“LIAP Program year” is the period between October 1<sup>st</sup> and the following September 30<sup>th</sup>.

14. Residential Customer

“Residential Customer” is any person who has applied for, been accepted for, and is receiving residential service from a transmission and distribution utility or has agreed to be billed for residential service from a transmission and distribution utility. This term also includes a person who was a customer of the same transmission and distribution utility within the past thirty (30) days and who requests service at the same or a different location.

15. Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan

"Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan" comprises the individual LIAPs that are being offered by the transmission and distribution utilities in the State in accordance with this Chapter.

16. Transmission and Distribution Utility

“Transmission and distribution utility” means a person, its lessees, trustees, receivers or trustees appointed by a court, owning, controlling, operating or managing a transmission and distribution plant for compensation within the State, except where the electricity is distributed by the entity that generates the electricity through private property alone solely for that entity’s own use or the use of the entity’s tenants and not for sale to others.

## **§2 PURPOSE OF THE STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN AND LIAPs**

The purpose of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan and the individual LIAPs is to establish a series of bill payment assistance programs which collectively cover the State for low-income residential customers that will:

- A) Make participants’ electric bills more affordable;
  - B) Make assistance available to low-income customers throughout the State;
- and
- C) Ensure that each transmission and distribution utility in the State has the funds necessary to implement a LIAP that addresses the need that exists in that particular utility's service territory.

### §3 CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LIAPS

#### A. Creation and Implementation of the LIAPs

Each transmission and distribution utility, except those exempted from electric restructuring under 35-A M.R.S.A., §3202(6), shall implement a LIAP by October 1, 2001. Each transmission and distribution utility that currently offers a LIAP shall continue to offer its LIAP and shall make modifications necessary for its LIAP's compliance with this Chapter for the 2002 program year.

#### B. Review and Approval by Commission

The Commission will review and approve each utility's LIAP. Each transmission and distribution utility creating a new LIAP shall submit terms and conditions for its proposed LIAP to the Commission for review by August 1, 2001. The Director of CAD is delegated authority to review and approve each utility's LIAP. Each transmission and distribution utility proposing to modify its LIAP shall submit its request for approval of such changes to the Commission by May 1 for modifications to the upcoming program year.

### §4 REQUIRED DESIGN FEATURES OF A LIAP

Each LIAP shall have the following design features:

#### A. Eligible Participants

Each transmission and distribution utility's LIAP shall be available to all that utility's customers who are taking residential electric service on a continuing year-round basis who meet the following two eligibility criteria:

1. The customer or a member of the customer's household must be certified to receive a LIHEAP benefit; and,
2. The customer is not receiving a housing subsidy that limits the household's total housing cost, including utilities, to a fixed percentage of the household's income.

#### B. LIAP Administration

Collectively, the LIAPs will be administered by the MSHA in cooperation with the Community Action Agencies and other entities that may contract with the MSHA. This includes eligibility certification, benefit determination, and any other administrative duty necessary to carry-out the intent of this Chapter.

C. Transfer of Certification Information

Certification and enrollment information should be transferred electronically between the utility and the agency responsible for certification and calculation of the benefit. If electronic transfer is not possible, the most cost-effective means of transferring the information shall be used.

D. Benefit Levels

Each LIAP shall vary benefits paid to ensure that customers most in need receive higher benefits than customers less in need. For example, customers between 0% and 75% of the federal poverty guidelines shall receive a higher benefit than those between 76% and 100%. Similarly, customers between 101% and 125% of federal poverty guidelines shall receive a higher benefit than those over 125%. Each utility's LIAP shall have a minimum of four separate categories of benefits based on federal poverty guidelines, with the exception of percentage of income programs, which by design complies with the intent of this section. Each LIAP shall include a provision to account for changes made to the federal LIHEAP program that may affect a customer's eligibility for the LIAP, such as an increase in the LIHEAP eligibility ceiling from 150% to 200% of the federal poverty guideline.

E. Enrollment

The enrollment process shall be designed so that the participant receives a benefit on the next bill after the utility's receipt of the participant's certification. If the bill will be issued within five (5) business days after receipt of the certification, enrollment shall be completed before the following bill is issued. If enrollment is delayed, enrollment shall be retroactive to the first bill issued after certification.

F. Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan Funding

The Statewide Low-Income Plan will be funded by an assessment on each transmission and distribution utility as described in section 5 of this Chapter.

G. Relationship to Energy Management Services

As a condition of enrollment, a LIAP participant shall accept energy management measures and programs offered at no cost by the participant's transmission and distribution utility, the MSHA, or other federally or state-funded programs, for the participant's dwelling or rental unit, unless the participant is a renter and the landlord withholds the required consent.

H. Impact on Means-Tested Assistance Programs

The intent of this Chapter is that benefits provided will not be counted as income or as a resource in other means-tested assistance programs for low-income



households. Each LIAP shall therefore be administered in a way that ensures that benefits will not result in the loss of other federal assistance dollars.

I. Continuing Applicability of Chapter 81

Except as specifically varied by this Chapter or by terms and conditions approved by the Commission, the provisions of Chapter 81 shall continue to apply.

J. No Right or Entitlement

This Chapter establishes a pool of eligible applicants but does not confer any right or entitlement on any person or eligible entity.

**§5 STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN FUNDING**

A. Creation of a Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan Fund

1. Purpose of the Fund

A Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan fund shall be established to: 1) reimburse each transmission and distribution utility whose funding obligation for the operation of its LIAPs exceeds its assessment; and 2) fund the MSHA's costs to administer the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan and the individual LIAPs pursuant to section 6 of this Chapter.

2. Sources for the Fund

The Fund will consist of contributions by transmission and distribution utilities as directed by this Chapter; all money appropriated by the State for inclusion in the Fund; all interest, dividends and pecuniary gains from the investment of money in the Fund; and any other monies deposited in the Fund to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

3. Separate Accounts of Fund

The Fund will consist of two separate accounts: one dedicated to LIAP benefits and one dedicated to administrative expenses. Funds may not be exchanged between the accounts unless approved by the Commission.

B. Transmission and Distribution Utilities' Funding Obligation for the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan for LIAP Program

1. LIAP Benefits

The total statewide spending for the LIAP benefits for the program year beginning October 1, 2001, shall be \$5,823,120.00. This funding amount will

continue each year thereafter unless modified by the Commission pursuant to this section. Each utility's assessment amount is listed in Appendix A to this Chapter. Funds owed to the MSHA pursuant to section 5(F) shall be transferred in a form specified by the MSHA by October 7 annually for the program year that begins October 1 and placed into the "benefits account" within the fund.

2. Administrative Costs

The total statewide spending for administrative costs for the LIAPs for the year beginning October 1, 2001, shall be \$239,720.00. This funding amount will continue each year thereafter unless modified by the Commission pursuant to this section. Each utility's administrative contribution is listed in Appendix A to this Chapter. All funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the MSHA by October 7 of each program year and placed in the "administrative account" of the fund. The Commission may adjust the utilities' contribution for administrative costs during a program year as necessary to ensure that the MSHA has sufficient funds to fully administer the LIAPs.

C. Modifications to Assessment Level

The Commission will monitor the needs of Maine's low-income electric customers and will evaluate annual LIAP funding and expenditure levels and program design features. For the program year beginning October 1, 2002 and for all subsequent program years, the Commission will by May 1 of each year adjust the assessment levels as necessary to ensure that the assistance provided by the LIAPs is consistent with the provisions of 35-A M.R.S.A., § 3214.

D. Apportionment of Funds

Each transmission and distribution utility shall be apportioned a specific funding amount for its LIAP pursuant to this section. The apportionment amount shall be calculated by multiplying the percentage of the LIHEAP eligible people in the State residing in each utility's service territory by the total LIAP funding amount for benefits (established in section 5(B)). Each utility's apportionment is stated in Appendix A to this Chapter. A utility may petition the Commission by May 1 for the upcoming program year to modify the apportionment rates used to establish the apportionments contained in Appendix A due to demographic changes in the LIHEAP population. The Commission itself may also open a proceeding to change the apportionment rates if it has evidence that demographics used to establish the apportionments have changed.

E. Transfer of Funds1. For Each Utility whose LIAP Assessment Exceeds its Apportionment

Each utility whose assessment exceeds its apportionment pursuant to this section shall transfer the difference to the MSHA by September 30 of each year.

2. For Each Utility whose LIAP Assessment is Less than its Apportionment

Each utility whose assessment is less than its apportionment is entitled to receive funds from the MSHA in an amount equal to the amount of actual expenditures for LIAP benefits that exceed the utility's assessment level, up to, but not exceeding, the utility's apportionment level. No utility will be eligible to receive reimbursement from the MSHA until its LIAP expenditures exceed its assessment amount. Utilities will receive reimbursement from the MSHA on a quarterly basis, to the extent that the MSHA has sufficient funding for the individual utility expenditures available for this purpose. Reimbursement will begin with the completion of the first quarter of the first program year on December 31, 2001, and will continue on a quarterly basis thereafter. The MSHA is not responsible or liable for a lack of funding and no transmission and distribution utility shall have any right or cause of action against the MSHA as a result of a lack of funding. Any shortfalls in funding will be considered by the Commission in its review of funding needs for the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan as described in section 5(D).

3. For Each Utility whose LIAP Expenditures are Less than its Apportionment

Each utility whose LIAP expenditures are less than its apportionment shall contribute the difference between the apportionment and the expenditure amount to the MSHA for inclusion in the fund prior to the commencement of the next program year.

4. For Each Utility whose LIAP Expenditures Exceed its Apportionment

No utility will be reimbursed for LIAP expenditures that exceed the utility's apportionment. Each utility whose LIAP expenditures exceed its apportionment may make adjustments to its LIAP program to reduce spending levels pursuant to section 3(B).

**§6 STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN AND LIAP  
ADMINISTRATION: ROLE OF THE MSHA**

The MSHA shall administer the LIAPs, and coordinate the administration of the LIAPs with the delivery of LIHEAP in Maine. Specifically, the MSHA (operating through the Community Action Agencies or other designated entities) shall determine eligibility to participate in a LIAP and inform the transmission and distribution utility serving the customer of the customer's eligibility. The MSHA shall also be responsible for any other administrative duties that may be associated with the determination of eligibility and benefit amounts for each LIAP. Each transmission and distribution utility shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements with the MSHA for administering its LIAP.

**A. Fiscal Oversight**

**1. Contributions to and Reimbursements from the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan Fund**

During each program year, the MSHA shall monitor and track payments made by utilities to both the "benefits" and "administrative" accounts of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan fund to ensure the utility's compliance with section 5 of this Chapter. The MSHA shall notify the Commission of any utility that fails to make its required contribution. The MSHA will not be responsible for making the utilities' comply with this section.

**2. LIAP Benefits**

During each program year, the MSHA shall monitor and track benefits paid by utilities to ensure that:

a. Utilities spend their specified apportionments on LIAP benefits pursuant to section 5(E);

b. Utilities contribute their specified assessments to fund benefits pursuant to section 5(E); and

c. A utility seeks reimbursement from the fund for only those costs incurred for LIAP benefits to its customers above the utility's apportionment and below the utility's assessment, pursuant to section 5(E).

**B. Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan Administrative Expenses Incurred by the MSHA**

The MSHA shall be reimbursed for its costs incurred for the administration of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan in an amount not to exceed \$239,720 or other amount established pursuant to section 5(B)(2). In the event this amount does not

fully cover the MSHA's costs to administer the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan, the Commission may increase the utilities' contributions to the administrative account of the Fund pursuant to section 5(B)(2) of this Chapter. Included in this amount shall be costs incurred by the Community Action Agencies (or other entities) that are associated with the implementation and administration of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan. Reimbursement for administrative costs pursuant to this section shall come from the "administrative account" of the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan fund. The MSHA shall maintain records accounting for the costs it has incurred in administering the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan, including those costs incurred by the Community Action Agencies. The Commission or its agents shall have the authority to inspect and examine MSHA's records of its administrative costs.

C. Reports to Commission

The MSHA shall file reports annually with the Commission starting with the conclusion of the first program year on September 30, 2002. The reports shall be in an electronic data format satisfactory to the Commission and the MSHA. The reports shall summarize and update program information including at a minimum the following information for each quarter of the program year:

1. Total Number of Participants

The total number of households participating in each transmission and distribution utility's LIAP.

2. Reimbursement to Utilities

The amount reimbursed from the fund in response to each utility's statement of actual LIAP benefit amounts paid to eligible customers over the utility's assessment amount.

3. Funds Received from Utilities

The amount received from each utility, separately listing funds received to the "administrative account" and funds received to the "benefits account."

4. Benefits Paid

The amount of benefits paid by each transmission and distribution utility, as well as total benefits paid.

5. Fund Information

The amount of LIAP funds held by the MSHA, the interest earned by the fund, and projected spending for the pending program year.

## 6. Other Information

Any other information concerning the administration and implementation of the LIAPs that the MSHA or the Commission believes would be useful for the Commission's ongoing oversight of funding levels and program design. Reports filed by the MSHA pursuant to this section will be in an electronic data format satisfactory to the MSHA and the Commission.

### D. Record Maintenance

The MSHA shall maintain records that include at least the following information:

#### 1. Number of Customers Evaluated

The number of eligible customers evaluated for participation in the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan by each Community Action Agency or other entity authorized to determine eligibility for the applicable LIAPs.

#### 2. Income and Usage

The household income, electric usage, and dollar amount of the annualized LIAP benefit (for LIAPs where this information is available) for each customer determined to be eligible by a Community Action Agency (or other entity), the date of such determination, and the identity of the transmission and distribution utility notified of the eligibility and benefit amount (for programs where this information is available).

### E. Coordination with Community Action Agencies

The MSHA will contract with Community Action Agencies throughout the State to administer the individual LIAPs. If circumstances require, the MSHA may, in its discretion, administer a LIAP locally or may contract with other entities, such as municipalities, to administer a LIAP in cooperation with LIHEAP and similar programs. The MSHA may establish application procedures, education and counseling, record retention, and reporting requirements applicable to ensure that entities administering the LIAPs do so locally in a manner that is cost effective and coordinated with the implementation of LIHEAP.

## **§7 OBLIGATIONS OF TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES**

### A. Operation of Existing Low-Income Programs

Each transmission and distribution utility shall continue to apply benefits for customers enrolled in a existing low-income program during the term of any payment plan initiated or program eligibility determined during the program year ending

September 30, 2002. Any modifications made to LIAPs thereafter will apply to participants who are determined eligible for a LIAP after the modification is approved by the Commission in accordance with section 3(B) of this Chapter.

B. Notice to Customers

1. Notice of Modifications to Existing Low-Income Programs

Each utility that currently offers an existing low-income program shall provide notice to participants of program modifications for the next program year and how those modifications may affect them.

2. Notice of New LIAPs

Each utility that will implement a new program on October 1 shall provide notice to all of its residential customers of the existence of and eligibility criteria for the LIAP prior to October 1, 2001.

3. Annual Notice to Customers

Each transmission and distribution utility shall inform all of its residential customers of the existence of and eligibility criteria for the LIAP in a bill insert issued annually, beginning in October of 2001. The bill insert shall include, at a minimum, the eligibility criteria for the LIAP and how to apply for the LIAP. This information shall also appear in any mailings by the utility to conform to the Commission's Winter Disconnection Rule, and shall appear on the utility's web pages with other relevant customer service information targeted to residential customers. Furthermore, each transmission and distribution utility shall provide oral notice of its LIAP and application procedures to all residential customers who contact the utility to sign up for service and who express difficulty in paying their electric bill in full in a timely manner. Information about the existence of the LIAP shall be included in the utility's written confirmation of payment arrangements, including Special Payment Arrangements negotiated pursuant to the Winter Disconnection Rule.

C. Changes in Transmission and Distribution Utility Schedules

This Chapter supersedes any conflicting provisions in any rate schedule or terms and conditions on file at the Commission. Each transmission and distribution utility shall submit any necessary terms and conditions revisions to comply with this Chapter. Each transmission and distribution utility implementing a new LIAP shall submit tariffs to comply with this section by August 1, 2001. Each transmission and distribution utility with an existing low-income assistance program shall submit revised terms and conditions for program modifications by August 1, 2002.

D. Providing Information to Community Action Agencies and the MSHA

Upon the request of the MSHA and Community Action Agencies, each transmission and distribution utility shall provide:

1. The prior 12 months usage for the customer's dwelling or the information necessary for the MSHA or the Community Action Agency to estimate the usage for the upcoming 12 months for the dwelling;
2. The estimated cost of electric service for the 12-month period specified by the MSHA or Community Action Agency for each eligible customer; and
3. Any information the Community Action Agency or the MSHA needs to administer the utility's LIAP.

This information shall be transmitted electronically by the transmission and distribution utility to the Community Action Agency or other MSHA-designated entity in a format acceptable to the MSHA, unless the MSHA and the utility agree that an alternative method of data transmission is acceptable.

E. Energy Management Measures

Each transmission and distribution utility shall coordinate its funding and delivery of energy management programs with the implementation of its LIAP with respect to any such programs available to low-income electric customers through the MSHA or the Community Action Agencies.

F. Reporting

Each transmission and distribution utility shall file quarterly and annual reports with the MSHA and the Commission, starting with the conclusion of the first quarter of the first program year on December 31, 2001, and continuing on a quarterly basis thereafter, that cumulatively summarize and update program information including the following minimum information for each month of the program year:

1. Number of Participants

The number of participants enrolled in its LIAP each month, separated by rate class if the transmission and distribution utility has more than one residential rate.

2. Program Benefit Amounts

The dollar amount of benefits provided to participating customers by month.



3. Payments to the MSHA

The amount of program funding provided to the MSHA, separately listing administrative costs from benefit costs.

4. Reimbursements Received from the MSHA

The amount of funds received from the MSHA for reimbursement of program expenditures.

5. Reimbursement Requests made to the MSHA

The amount of funds requested for reimbursement from the MSHA.

6. Projected LIAP Benefits

The projected amount of LIAP benefits to be paid for the remainder of the program year and the difference between projected costs and the LIAP funding amount for the program year.

7. Administrative Funds Provided to MSHA

Funds provided to the MSHA for administrative costs pursuant to Section 5(C)(2).

The reports required in this subsection shall be filed within 30 days of the conclusion of each quarter and the end of each program year.

## **§8 WAIVER**

Upon the request of any person subject to this Chapter, or upon its own motion, the Commission may, for good cause, waive any requirement of this Chapter that is not required by statute. The waiver may not be inconsistent with the purposes of this Chapter or Title 35-A. The Commission, the Director of the Consumer Assistance Division, or the presiding officer assigned to a proceeding related to this Chapter may grant the waiver.

## Appendix A – Chapter 314

## Low-Income Program Costs

Company	% of LIHEAP Clients	Assessment	Apportionment	Difference
Central Maine Power	62.21	\$4,496,669	\$3,622,685	\$ (873,984)
Bangor Hydro-Electric	21.92	853,172	1,276,434	423,262
Maine Public Service	11.31	265,106	658,370	393,264
Eastern Maine Electric	2.95	74,382	171,814	97,432
Fox Island Electric	0.10	13,821	5,778	( 8,043)
Houlton Water Co.	0.78	35,257	45,395	10,138
Kennebunk Light & Power Co.	0.03	43,931	1,513	(42,418)
Madison Dept of Electric Works	0.05	24,843	3,164	(21,679)
Swans Island Electric	0.03	4,853	1,788	( 3,065)
Van Buren Light & Power District	0.62	11,086	36,179	25,093
Totals	100.00	\$5,823,120	\$5,892,120	\$ 0

## Low-Income Program Administrative Costs

Company	Internal 30%	External 70%	Total Administrative Costs
Central Maine Power	\$ 79,334	\$ 185,113	\$ 264,447
Bangor Hydro-Electric	15,052	35,123	50,175
Maine Public Service	4,677	10,914	15,591
Eastern Maine Electric	1,312	3,062	4,374
Fox Island Electric	244	569	813
Houlton Water Co.	622	1,451	2,073
Kennebunk Light & Power Co.	775	1,809	2,584
Madison Dept of Electric Works	438	1,023	1,461
Swans Island Electric	85	200	285
Van Buren Light & Power District	196	456	552
Totals	\$ 102,735	\$ 239,720	\$ 342,455

**BASIS STATEMENT:** The factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in Commission's Statement of Factual and Policy Basis and Order Adopting Rule, Commission Docket No. 2001-042 issued on \_\_\_\_\_. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018.

**AUTHORITY:** 35-A M.R.S.A. §§104, 111, and 3214; 38 M.R.S.A. §§4961 and 4962.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This rule was approved as to the form and legality by the Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_. It was filed with the Secretary of State on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be effective on \_\_\_\_\_.